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UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD CUBA
AND RELATED EVENTS

1 November 1961 - 15 October 1962

March 1963

U.S. POLICY TOWARDS CUBA AND RELATED EVENTS
1 NOVEMBER 1961 - 15 OCTOBER 1962

8 Nov 1961

The President stated at a press conference that "when the limitations were put on trade with Cuba by the previous administration, there was exempted food and drugs which amount to around \$12 million a year. And it would be impossible for us to break, to stop, that trade unless we enforce the Trading with the Enemy Act.

"This has been a matter continually before us, but we are not anxious to be in the position of declaring war on the Cuban people by denying them essential food and also denying them medicines, and therefore this administration, like the previous administration, has been reluctant to take that action, but it's a matter that will be before us continually, and if it seems like the proper action, we'll take it, but our dispute is not with the Cuban people but with the Communist control of Cuba."

(Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, John F. Kennedy, 1961, p. 435.)

17 Nov 1961

Secretary of State Dean Rusk stated at a news conference: "With respect to Cuba, Peru and Colombia have taken important initiatives in the Organization of American States looking toward the expression in some suitable way and with suitable action on two aspects of the Cuban problem, one emphasizing the problem of human rights and situation of the Cuban people

themselves and the other emphasizing the impact of such a situation upon the general position of the hemisphere.

"We believe that both of these initiatives ought to be supported and encouraged, and we are looking toward the OAS to come forward with a serious and responsible consideration of this very important problem."

(Department of State Bulletin, Nov 27, 1961, p. 920.)

21 Nov 1961

The Cuban government called on the U.N. Security Council and the OAS to hold emergency meetings to consider Cuban charges of U.S. "aggression" in the Dominican Republic.

22 Nov 1961

At a special session of the Council of the Organization of American States, U.S. Ambassador delessays Morrison denied Cuban charges that the United States had intervened in the affairs of the Dominican Republic and said that "the real danger to the peace and security of the Caribbean area and to the independence of every American state lies in the suppression of freedom and democracy in Cuba and in the subservience of his [the Cuban Ambassador's] Government to the Communist bloc in a manner which permits the once independent country of Cuba to be used as an instrument of subversion and agitation throughout the hemisphere."

(Department of State Bulletin, December 18, 1961, pp. 1000 - 03.)

24 Nov 1961

The U.S. government announced that U.S. warships would remain off the Dominican Republic as long as danger of "political

"disintegration" continued. U.S. Ambassador-to-the-UN Adlai Stevenson stated that these warships, which had not entered the territorial waters of the Dominican Republic, had been sent "with the full knowledge of the constitutional authorities" there.

- ✓ 25 Nov 1961 The President stated in an interview by A. Adzhubei, Editor of Investigacion, that "the United States supports the idea that every people shall have the right to make a free choice as to the kind of government they want. In the case of Cuba, . . . the Castro revolution was originally supported by the great majority of the people. When Castro was leading the revolution, the statement was made that there would be free elections, and freedom for the people, and progress for the people. But Castro has not kept that commitment. Until the present government of Cuba will allow free and honest elections, in our opinion, it cannot claim to represent the majority of the people. That is our dispute with Cuba."
- (Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, John F. Kennedy, 1961, p. 483.)

- 29 Nov 1961 President Kennedy (at a press conference) declared that the U.S. would be "most concerned" if the Castro regime in Cuba attempted to overthrow the existing government in the Dominican Republic or in any other Latin American state.

- ✓ 2 Dec 1961 In a radio-TV broadcast, Fidel Castro announced that he was leading Cuba to communism. "I am a Marxist-Leninist and

will be one until the day I die." A single "united party of Cuba's Socialist revolution" would lead Cuba, he said, through socialism to a "people's democracy, or the dictatorship of the proletariat."

4 Dec 1961 President Kennedy extended through 30 Jun 1962 the total U.S. ban on sugar imports from Cuba. The current embargo was to expire on 31 December 1961.

4 Dec 1961 The OAS Council, meeting in Washington, approved by a vote of 14-2 a Colombian resolution for the convening of an OAS conference on threats of subversion from Cuba. The resolution, which did not specifically mention Cuba, provided that an OAS foreign ministers conference would open at Punta del Este, Uruguay, on 10 Jan 1962 (later postponed to 22 Jan) to "consider the threats to peace and the political independence of the American states that may emerge from an intervention of extra-continental powers." The primary objective of the conference, according to the New York Times, would be "to declare formally that subversion directed by one American government against another is a form of aggression and is subject to sanctions under the provisions of the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty of 1947."
(New York Times.)

6 Dec 1961 The United States submitted to the Inter-American Peace

Commission of the OAS a document entitled "The Castro Regime in Cuba," containing information on Cuba's ties with the Sino-Soviet bloc and her threat to independent governments in the Western Hemisphere. The document (made public on 3 Jan 1962) stated that "as a bridgehead of Sino-Soviet imperialism within the inner defenses of the Western Hemisphere, Cuba under the Castro regime represents a serious threat to the collective security of the American republics." The document also declared: "From the time the Castro regime came to power on Jan. 1, 1959, it has deliberately tried to undermine established governments in Latin America and destroy the inter-American system. . . . The leaders of the Castro regime now frankly admit and publicly proclaim that their revolutionary dogma is to be exported with the objective of bringing about Castro-like revolutions in all the American republics. . . . During this period the Castro regime has established such extensive and intimate political, military, economic and cultural ties with the Soviet Union, Communist China and the countries associated with them as to render Cuba an appendage of the Communist system." With regard to Cuba's military stance, the document reported "During the past 12 months the Castro regime has engaged in a massive military build-up. It has obtained large quantities of military equipment from the Soviet bloc and received pledges of military support from the Soviet Union and Communist China."

- 18 Dec 1961 The Cuban government rejected a request of the Inter-American Peace Commission of the OAS to visit Cuba to investigate Peruvian charges of Communist subversion against other Latin American countries and of human rights violations.
- 20 Dec 1961 U.S. Commerce Department announced it had taken action penalizing 18 firms and individuals for illegal shipments of aircraft, automotive and other equipment to Cuba via Mexico. A Department statement said: "There has been great effort on the part of the Castro regime to attempt to obtain U.S. parts and equipment . . . in the face of the US embargo."
- 2 Jan 1962 Premier Castro (at a mass rally in Havana to celebrate the 3rd anniversary of the overthrow of the Batista regime) declared: "We reiterate that we are Marxist-Leninists and we do not repent it." He attacked the OAS Foreign Ministers' meeting (to be held in Punta del Este on Jan 22), and warned "governments of America sold to [U.S.] imperialism who are willing to attack a brother people" against any military adventure. He says that if any new invasion force attacks Cuba, "we will exterminate [them] to the last man."
- 7 Jan 1962 In a radio interview, Secretary Rusk was asked about the possibility of the Cuban government being overthrown from the outside. He replied, "I believe that basically the overthrow of the Cuban government is a problem for the Cuban people. Of course, if there were overt acts of aggression

against Cuba's neighbors, that would raise some very serious problems indeed."

(Department of State Bulletin, 22 Jan 1962, p. 125.)

- 10 Jan 1962 The Associated Press reported that Cuba and the Soviet Union had signed a pact providing for trade valued at \$700 million for 1962, an increase of \$150 million over 1961.
- 18 Jan 1962 The Inter-American Peace Committee published a report (approved unanimously by the 5 members of the Committee - Colombia, El Salvador, Uruguay, Venezuela and the U.S.), which denounced Cuba's ties with Communism, subversion and violations of human rights. The report declared: "Such acts represent attacks upon inter-American peace and security as well as on the sovereignty and political independence of the American states, and therefore [constitute] a serious violation of fundamental principles of the inter-American system. . . ."
- 22 Jan 1962 The conference of Foreign Ministers of the 21 American Republics met in Punta del Este, Uruguay, to consider collective action against Cuba.
- ✓ 25 Jan 1962 U.S. Secretary of State Rusk (in an address to the Punta del Este conference) urged the OAS Foreign Ministers to adopt a 4-point plan to protect the Hemisphere against the dangers of Communist aggression through a Cuban bridgehead. The 4 points

were: (1) to declare that the Castro Government's alignment with the Sino-Soviet bloc and its commitment to extend Communist power in the Western Hemisphere are incompatible with the inter-American system; (2) to exclude Cuba from participation in OAS agencies; (3) to interrupt "the limited but significant flow of trade between Cuba and the rest of the Hemisphere, especially the traffic in arms;" (4) to set up a special security committee to study defense measures "against the various forms of political and indirect aggression against the Hemisphere." Rusk declared that "What we cannot accept — and will never accept — is the use of Cuba as the means through which extracontinental powers seek to break up the inter-American system, to overthrow the governments of other countries and to destroy the autonomous democratic evolution of the Hemisphere."

President Dorticos of Cuba, in a reply to Rusk, declared that the conference was convened "to prepare the continental conditions for a new physical and military aggression against Cuba." He accused the U.S. of being the real threat to the peace in the Hemisphere, and said: "Cuba will respect the right of others to develop themselves by capitalist methods. But we have taken the road of Socialism, and there is no force in existence capable of making us turn back."

(Deadline Data.)

31 Jan 1962

The OAS Foreign Ministers' conference voted by a two-thirds majority — 14 to 1 (Cuba), with 6 abstentions (Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Ecuador and Mexico) — to exclude Cuba from participation in the inter-American system. President Osvaldo Dorticos of Cuba declared that the exclusion of Cuba from the OAS will convert the organization into a "political-military bloc at the service of the United States."

The resolution excluding Cuba from the OAS stated:

- (a) That adherence by any member of the Organisation of American States to Marxism-Leninism is incompatible with the inter-American system and the alignment of such a Government with the Communist bloc breaks the unity and solidarity of the hemisphere.
- (b) That the present Government of Cuba, which has officially identified itself as a Marxist-Leninist Government is incompatible with the principles and objectives of the inter-American system.
- (c) That this incompatibility excludes the present Government of Cuba from participation in the inter-American system.
- (d) That the Council of the Organization of American States and the other organs and agencies of the inter-American system adopt without delay the measures necessary to carry out this resolution.

The Foreign Ministers also adopted:

(1) A declaration stating that the principles of Communism are incompatible with the inter-American system, warning of 'the intensification of the subversive offensive' in the Hemisphere, and affirming faith in social progress and representative democracy through free elections and respect for human rights as counter-measures to Communism. Approved 20 to 1 (Cuba).

(2) A declaration reaffirming the principles of the Alliance for Progress as essential to the security of the Hemisphere. Approved 20 to 1 (Cuba).

(3) A resolution excluding Cuba immediately from the inter-American Defense Board. Approved 20 to 1 (Cuba).

31 Jan 1962 President Kennedy declared (at a press conference in Washington) that he was satisfied with the outcome of the Punta del Este conference. He said: "It is the first time the independent American states have declared with one voice that the concept of Marxism-Leninism is incompatible with the inter-American system."

3 Feb 1962 President Kennedy proclaimed an embargo on almost all U.S. trade with Cuba, with the exception — "on humanitarian grounds" — of the export to Cuba of certain foods and medicines. The embargo (which was to go into effect Feb 7) will stop U.S. imports from Cuba of tobacco, industrial molasses and vegetables — thereby depriving Cuba of an annual income of about \$35 million.

4 Feb 1962

Cuban Premier Castro denounced (at a mass rally in Havana) the U.S. trade embargo as "another economic aggression." In answer to the exclusion of Cuba from the OAS, Castro issued a "Second Declaration of Havana" which stated that the Punta del Este conference has shown the OAS "in its true light [as] nothing more nor less than the U.S. Ministry of Colonies."

- 14 Feb 1962 Cuba was formally excluded from the Organization of American States by the OAS Council -- thereby carrying out the resolution voted by the conference of Foreign Ministers at Punta del Este.
- 20 Feb 1962 The US asked its NATO allies to prohibit voluntarily trade in strategic materials with Cuba and to reduce in general their trade with that country.
- 23 Mar 1962 UN Security Council rejected by a vote of 7 to 2 a Cuban charge that the Organization of American States violated the UN Charter in barring Cuba from the inter-American system and rejected by a vote of 7 to 4 a Cuban request that the question of the legality of the OAS action be submitted to the World Court.
- 24 Mar 1962 The United States prohibited imports of merchandise made or derived in whole or in part of products of Cuban origin.
- 27 Mar 1962 A report issued by the State Department stated that the Sino-Soviet bloc had furnished about \$100 million worth of military equipment and technical services to Cuba and that several hundred Cuban military personnel had received training, including pilot training, in countries of the Communist bloc. Arms included 5 to 75 Mig jet fighters, 150 to 250 tanks, 50 to 100

assault guns, 500 to 1,000 field artillery, 500 to 1,000 antiaircraft artillery, 500 mortars, 200,000 small arms, and some patrol vessels and torpedo boats. (S. Comm. on Foreign Relations, 88th Cong., 1st sess., Events in United States — Cuban Relations; A Chronology, 1957-1963, p. 22.)

- 8 Apr 1962 A Cuban military tribunal sentenced each of the 1,179 prisoners captured after the unsuccessful invasion in April 1961 to 30-years imprisonment, but offered to free them for payment of \$62 million in ransom.
- 10-11 Apr 1962 The Cuban Families Committee negotiated with the Castro government for the release of 60 sick and wounded invasion prisoners. The Committee agreed to pay \$2 1/2 million to Cuba.
- 11 Apr 1962 President Kennedy (at a news conference) declared that the US Government will not negotiate with Cuba to ransom the prisoners.
- 22 Apr 1962 President Kennedy acknowledged (at a press conference) that Communist "supplies and technicians of rather intensive quantity in recent weeks" have been landing in Cuba.
- 14 May 1962 Tass reported that the Soviet-Cuban trade agreement for 1962 would be increased to about \$750 million under

an agreement signed in Moscow, a level of trade almost 40% higher than in 1961. The supplementary agreement called for the supply of considerable quantities of wheat, corn, beans, fats, canned meat and milk.

- 1 Jul 1962 The Cuban armed forces ministry charged that U.S. Navy jets had carried out 9 "spy flights" over Cuba in the week ending June 26th.
- 24 Aug 1962 A Cuban exile group of students shelled the Havana suburb of Miramar. Their 2 motor boats were impounded by the U.S. Coast Guard the next day when they put into port in Florida, pending a Coast Guard investigation to see whether U.S. neutrality had been violated.
- 25 Aug 1962 Premier Castro said that Cuba held the U.S. "responsible for this new and cowardly attack [on Miramar] ... and we denounce ... the aggressive plans imperialism is making against Cuba."
- The U.S. State Department said the attack "was a spur-of-the-moment raid" in which the U.S. government was not involved and of which it had had no previous knowledge. The statement added that while "we appreciate the strong feelings of this free student group and their hostility to this most oppressive regime, we cannot approve the use of United States territory as a base for such action."

(Facts on File)

27 Aug 1962

President Kennedy (at a press conference) stated that the US has no intention of invading Cuba "at this time." He added that "the words do not have some secondary meaning. I think it would be a mistake to invade Cuba." He declared that the US has already been in consultation with NATO nations whose shipping firms have chartered vessels to the Soviet Union to haul military goods to Cuba. (The President's response was a reply to several Congressional suggestions that the US invade Cuba because of the presence of Soviet troops there.)

(Deadline Date)

✓ 31 Aug 1962

A US Navy plane on a training flight over international waters near Cuba was fired on by 2 naval vessels. The White House announced that the ships were believed to be Cuban, and that US aircraft and ships have been authorized to use "all means necessary" to protect themselves against any similar attack in the future.

2 Sep 1962

The Soviet Union announced that it had agreed to supply arms to Cuba and to provide specialists to train Cuba's armed forces. The communique stated that the arms are intended to meet the "threats" of "aggressive imperialist quarters." A US State Department spokesman

declared that the Moscow announcement "merely confirms what has been going on in recent months."

(Deadline Data)

4 Sep 1962

President Kennedy stated the concern of this country and its allies over the recent Soviet moves to bolster the military power of the Castro regime. During the last four days, the President said, the Soviets have provided the Cuban Government with antiaircraft missiles, radar and other electronic equipment, motor torpedo-boats, and approximately 3,500 military technicians. There was no evidence, however, of the presence of offensive ground-to-ground missiles or of other significant offensive capability either in Cuban hands or under Soviet direction and guidance. "Were it otherwise," said the President, "the gravest issues would arise." The policy of the United States continues to be, he added, that the Castro regime will not be allowed to export its aggressive purposes by force or the threat of force. "It will be prevented by whatever means may be necessary from taking action against any parts of the Western Hemisphere."

(The Department of State Bulletin, 24 Sep 1962, p. 450.)

- 5 Sep 1962 US Secretary of State Dean Rusk held a meeting with 19 Latin American Ambassadors in Washington and informed them of the US determination to prevent the export of communism from Cuba.
- 7 Sep 1962 President Kennedy asked Congress for authority to order 150,000 members of the military Reserves to active duty for a year, if necessary, "to permit prompt and effective responses . . . to challenges . . . in any part of the free world."
- 11 Sep 1962 In a statement by Tass, the Soviet Government asserted that it was providing military assistance of a defensive character to Cuba because of the allegedly increasing danger of attack by U.S. armed forces. It stated that such an attack "would be the beginning of the unleashing of war."
- 13 Sep 1962 President Kennedy at a news conference noted that the "movement [of Soviet technical and military personnel into Cuba] has been increased. It is under our most careful surveillance. But I will repeat the conclusion that I reported last week, that these new shipments do not constitute a serious threat to any other part of this hemisphere." He added that "unilateral military intervention on the part of the United States cannot currently be either required or justified. . . . But

let me make this clear once again: If at any time the Communist buildup in Cuba were to endanger or interfere with our security in any way, including our base at Guantanamo, our passage to the Panama Canal, our missile and space activities at Cape Canaveral, or the lives of American citizens in this country, or if Cuba should ever attempt to export its aggressive purposes by force or threat of force against any nation in this hemisphere, or become an offensive military base of significant capacity for the Soviet Union, then this country will do whatever must be done to protect its own security and that of its allies."

(Department of State Bulletin, October 1, 1962, pp. 481-482.)

14 Sep 1962

The Soviet Government (in an editorial in Izvestia) accepted with reservations President Kennedy's declaration that US military intervention in Cuba was not required or justified at this time. But it asserted that the possibility of a US invasion of Cuba existed and that the US "does not want to abandon the policy of armed provocations against the Cuban Republic."

20 Sep 1962

US Senate adopted by 86 to 1 a resolution stating that the US is determined "to prevent by whatever means may be necessary, including the use of arms, the Marxist-

Leninist regime in Cuba from extending by force or threat of force its aggressive or subversive activities to any part of this hemisphere; to prevent in Cuba the creation or use of an externally supported military capability endangering the security of the US."

21 Sep 1962

Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko (in a speech in the UN General Assembly) warned that a US attack on Cuba or on Cuba-bound Soviet shipping would mean war. Ambassador Stevenson rejected Gromyko's charge, stating that "we are not taking and will not take offensive action in this hemisphere; neither will we permit aggression in this hemisphere." He added that the "threat to peace in Cuba comes not from the United States but from the Soviet Union" and this "military intervention from outside of this hemisphere is the threat to which the states of the Western Hemisphere cannot remain indifferent, any more than states could anywhere else." (Department of State Bulletin, October 15, 1962, pp. 582-583.)

24 Sep 1962

US Defense Department announced that it was starting to enroll Cuban refugee volunteers into special Spanish-speaking units of the US Army and Navy.

- 26 Sep 1962 The US House of Representatives approved a joint resolution expressing US determination to oppose with force, if necessary, any Communist aggression or subversion based in Cuba.
- 30 Sep 1962 US Secretary of State Dean Rusk categorically rejected the idea of any "deal" with the Soviet Union under which Russia would withdraw from Cuba in return for the US closing down some of its overseas bases. He said: "This is not a negotiable point. . . . You cannot support freedom in one place by surrendering freedom in another."

- 2 Oct 1962 The U.S. State Department called in embassy representatives of the NATO countries and proposed that they should accept restrictions on the use of their shipping in the Cuban trade.
- 2 Oct 1962 An informal conference of American Foreign Ministers met in closed session in Washington at the invitation of the U.S. to discuss the Cuban problem in the light of the Soviet military build-up there. At a White House luncheon, President Kennedy told the Foreign Ministers: "Communism can be the death of this hemisphere. . . . I think the time has come for us to join together, regardless of all the difficulties we have at home - and I am conscious of all of them in every one of your countries. There is no time to temporize with the Communist movement. . . . Communist efforts in Cuba only seek to establish a springboard for an attack on this entire hemisphere by subversion, infiltration, by all the other rather odious apparatus that the Communist system uses effectively."
- 3 Oct 1962 Appearing before a Congressional committee, Undersecretary of State George W. Ball said that our "policy toward Cuba is based upon the assessment that it does not today constitute a military threat to the United States." U.S. policy is "directed toward nullifying Cuba's usefulness as a source of infection for international communism, while at the same time rendering it more costly for the Sino-Soviet bloc to maintain it for that purpose." He declared that the number of Soviet

"military specialists" in Cuba, including "construction men and technicians," now totalled 4,500. He said that 85 Soviet shiploads have arrived in Cuba since July, and have delivered: (1) enough surface-to-air missiles to establish 15 missile sites, with another 10 in the offing; (2) three or four surface-to-surface missile sites; (3) about 60 older type MIG jet aircraft, and probably in the near future some 25 or 30 of the most modern Soviet jet fighters; (4) 16 guided-missile patrol boats.

(Department of State Bulletin, 22 Oct 1962, pp. 591 - 95.)

4 Oct 1962

President Kennedy signed into law a Congressional resolution declaring the U.S. will use force if necessary to prevent a Soviet military build-up in Cuba that would endanger U.S. security. He also signed a resolution giving him authority to call 150,000 reservists to active military duty.

8 Oct 1962

In the UN General Assembly President Osvaldo Dorticos delivered a speech against U.S. "aggressions and provocations" against Cuba, and called on the UN to condemn the U.S. "naval blockade" of Cuba. In a subsequent news conference, U.S. delegate Adlai Stevenson denied the Cuban President's charges, and said: "What we cannot accept -- and will never accept -- is that Cuba has become the springboard for aggressive and subversive efforts to destroy the inter-American system, to overthrow the governments of the Americas and to obstruct the peaceful, democratic evolution of this hemisphere toward

social justice and economic development. Let there be no doubt as to the solidarity of the nations of this hemisphere on the problem of Cuba. The Foreign Ministers . . . of the American Republics have just . . . unanimously . . . declared that the most urgent problem facing the hemisphere is Communist intervention in Cuba and its threat to convert the island into an armed base for penetration and subversion of the democratic institutions of the hemisphere. . . . What the President of Cuba really wishes us to do is to place the seal of approval on the existence of a Communist regime in the Western Hemisphere. The maintenance of Communism is not negotiable."

10 Oct 1962

Republican Senator Kenneth E. Keating of New York told the Senate that 6 intermediate-range missile sites were under construction in Cuba, and called on the Kennedy Administration to confirm or deny these reports.

13 Oct 1962

In a campaign speech in Indianapolis, President Kennedy attacked Republican Senator Homer E. Capehart of Indiana for demanding an invasion of Cuba. He said: "Those self-appointed generals and admirals who want to send someone else's sons to war . . . ought to be kept at home by the voters and replaced by someone who has some understanding of what the 20th century is all about."

**United States Policy Toward Cuba
and Related Events**

(16 October 1962 - 28 October 1962)

United States Policy Toward Cuba
and Related Events

(15 October 1962 - 28 October 1962)

- 16 Oct 1962 The U.S. obtained its first "hard" evidence from photographs taken by reconnaissance planes that Soviet offensive weapons had been installed in Cuba.
- 16 Oct Algerian Premier Ahmed Ben Bella arrived in Cuba for a 24-hour state visit following a visit with President Kennedy in Washington. In a welcoming speech, Premier Castro said: "To visit Cuba when the Yankee imperialists threaten our country with attack . . . is on your part, Mr. Premier, an act of courage and a gesture we shall never forget." A joint communique was issued on 17 Oct calling upon the U.S. to give up its bases at Guantanamo.
- 17 Oct The Soviet government newspaper Izvestia declared that the Soviet Union would never change its policy toward Cuba in order to obtain U.S. concessions in Berlin.
- 18 Oct The Defense Department disclosed that it had moved a squadron of its fastest and most heavily armed Navy jet fighters to the southern tip of Florida. The move was ordered on 6 Oct., three days after Congress was told of a Soviet build-up of MIG jets in Cuba.

- 18 Oct Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko conferred with President Kennedy in Washington. Gromyko assured the President that Russian military aid to Cuba was for defensive purposes only. The President noted that grave consequences would follow if offensive weapons were introduced into that country.
- 21 Oct The Defense Department confirmed that about 40 ships, 20,000 men and a number of carrier aircraft were engaged in maneuvers in the Caribbean near Vieques Island off Puerto Rico.
- 22 Oct President Kennedy accused the Soviet Union of establishing offensive missile bases in Cuba, and announced a U.S. "quarantine on all offensive military equipment under shipment to Cuba." He said that several new Soviet missile sites in Cuba included "medium-range ballistic missiles, capable of carrying a nuclear warhead for a distance of more than 1,000 nautical miles," and that "additional sites not yet completed appear to be designed for intermediate-range ballistic missiles - capable of traveling more than twice as far." He added that Soviet "jet bombers, capable of carrying nuclear weapons, are now being uncrated and assembled in Cuba, while the necessary air bases are being prepared." He accused the Soviet

Government of deliberately deceiving the U.S. about the nature of its arms build-up in Cuba and said that "this secret, swift and extraordinary build-up of Communist missiles - in an area well known to have a special and historical relationship to the United States and the nations of the Western Hemisphere, in violation of Soviet assurances, and in defiance of American and hemispheric policy - this sudden, clandestine decision to station strategic weapons for the first time outside of Soviet soil is a deliberately provocative and unfounded change in the status quo which cannot be accepted" by the U.S. He announced that 7 initial steps were being taken immediately: (1) "A strict quarantine on all offensive military equipment under shipment to Cuba...from whatever nation or port...This quarantine will be extended, if needed, to other types of cargo and carriers." (2) If Soviet "offensive military preparations (in Cuba) continue...further action will be justified. I have directed the armed forces to prepare for any eventualities." (3) The U.S. will regard "any nuclear missile launched from Cuba against any nation in the Western Hemisphere as an attack by the Soviet Union on the United States, requiring a full retaliatory response upon the Soviet Union." (4) The U.S. base at Guantanamo has been reinforced, and additional

military units are "on a standby-alert basis."

(5) The U.S. is calling for "an immediate meeting of the Organ of Consultation under the Organization of American States, to consider this threat to hemispheric security and to invoke Articles 6 and 8 of the Rio Treaty in support of all necessary action". (6) The U.S. is asking for an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council "to take action against the latest Soviet threat to world peace." The US resolution will call for "the prompt dismantling and withdrawal of all offensive weapons in Cuba, under the supervision of UN observers, before the quarantine can be lifted."

(7) Kennedy called on Soviet Premier Khrushchev "to halt and eliminate this clandestine, reckless and provocative threat to world peace and to stable relations between our two nations... (and) to abandon this course of world domination, and to join in an historic effort to end the perilous arms race and transform the history of man." Kennedy warned the Soviet Union that "any other threat which is made either independently or in response to our actions this week... must and will be met with determination. Any hostile move anywhere in the world against the safety and freedom of peoples to whom we are committed - including in particular the brave people of West Berlin - will be met by whatever

action is needed." To the Cuban people, he said: "Now your leaders are no longer Cuban leaders....They are puppets and agents of an international conspiracy which has turned Cuba against your friends and neighbors in the Americas - and turned it into the first Latin American country to become a target for nuclear war - the first Latin American country to have these weapons on its soil....Many times in the past the Cuban people have risen to throw out tyrants who destroyed their liberty. And I have no doubt that most Cubans today look forward to the time when they will be truly free - free from foreign domination, free to choose their own leaders, free to select their own system, free to own their own land, free to speak and write and worship without fear or degradation. And then shall Cuba be welcomed back to the society of free nations and to the associations of this Hemisphere."

22 Oct

The U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., Adlai Stevenson, delivered a letter to the President of the Security Council, Valerian Zorin, requesting an urgent meeting of the Council to consider a draft resolution condemning the introduction of offensive weapons into Cuba.

22 Oct

Premier Castro mobilized all of Cuba's armed forces.

22 Oct

The West German Government issued a statement strongly in favor of the actions announced by President Kennedy. The statement welcomed the "resoluteness" of the U.S. in safe-guarding the non-Communist world from the menace posed by the establishment of missile sites in Cuba.

✓ 23 Oct

Secretary of State Rusk, addressing the special meeting of the Council of the OAS, stated that, faced with the evidence of Soviet offensive weapons in Cuba, "the United States Government has sought a policy which would accomplish our purposes with the appropriate and necessary use of force and with necessary opportunity to remove this grave threat by means other than general war." Therefore, Rusk added, the President has "stated that it is necessary immediately to prevent the arrival of additional offensive military weapons in Cuba, to seek promptly to arrest further work on the offensive capacity being developed in Cuba, and to require that all these offensive weapons be withdrawn or eliminated before we can consider that this threat to the peace of the hemisphere will have been adequately dealt with."

23 Oct

The U.S. blockade against ships delivering offensive weapons to Cuba was proclaimed, effective at 10:00 a.m. (EDT) 24 Oct. Secretary McNamara announced that 25 Soviet merchant ships had been spotted on the way

to Cuba, and that the first U. S. Navy contact with these ships would be within 24 hours.

The quarantine was imposed in accordance with the recommendation of the OAS acting under the Rio Treaty of 1947, which provides for collective action not only in the case of armed attack but also "if the inviolability or the integrity of the territory or the sovereignty or political independence of any American State should be affected . . . by any . . . fact or situation that might endanger the peace of America." In such cases, a special body, the Organ of Consultation, would "meet immediately in order to agree on the measures . . . which should be taken for the common defense and for the maintenance of the peace and security of the Continent." The treaty is explicit as to the measures which may be taken, and specifically authorizes the "use of armed forces," though "no State shall be required to use armed force without its consent."

The Council of the OAS, after granting itself emergency powers as a ministerial-level Organ of Consultation under provisions of the Rio Treaty, formally called for "the immediate dismantling and withdrawal from Cuba of all missiles and other weapons with any offensive capability," and authorized the members of the Organisation to take measures,

including "the use of armed forces," to ensure that the Cuban Government "cannot continue to receive from the Sino-Soviet powers military material and related supplies which may threaten the peace and security of the Continent and to prevent the missiles in Cuba with offensive capability from ever becoming an active threat to the peace and security of the Continent."

The quarantine was imposed to carry out this recommendation. Support for the resolution was unanimous, once Uruguay converted its abstention (due to a delay in receiving instructions) into an affirmative vote.

28 Oct

The U.N. Security Council met to hear conflicting charges of aggression brought before it by the U.S., Cuba and the Soviet Union. The U.S. introduced a resolution (1) calling for the immediate dismantling and withdrawal from Cuba of all missiles and other offensive weapons, (2) requesting the dispatch of a U.N. observer corps to Cuba, and (3) recommending that the U.S. and the Soviet Union confer on measures to remove the threat to the security of the Western Hemisphere. The Soviet Union put forward a counterresolution condemning the U.S. and calling for Cuba, the U.S.S.R. and the U.S. to enter into negotiations.

U.S. Ambassador Stevenson stated that: "The foremost objection of the states of the Americas to the Castro regime is not because it is revolutionary, not because it is socialistic, not because it is dictatorial, not even because Dr. Castro perverted a noble revolution in the interests of a squalid totalitarianism. It is because he has aided and abetted an invasion of this hemisphere. . . . The crucial fact is that Cuba has given the Soviet Union a bridgehead and staging area in this hemisphere, that it has invited an extra-continental, antidemocratic, and expansionist power into the bosom of the American family, that it has made itself an accomplice in the Communist enterprise of world dominion."

25 Oct The U. S. Foreign Aid Appropriation Act prohibited assistance to any country which furnished or permitted its ships to carry to Cuba, arms, ammunition, implements of war, petroleum, transportation materials, or other materials of strategic value. The Act further prohibited economic assistance to Cuba, unless the President determined that withholding such assistance would be contrary to the national interest.

25 Oct A Soviet Government statement warned the U.S. that its quarantine raised the threat of thermonuclear world war. It said that the Soviet Union had "repeatedly declared

that not a single Soviet nuclear bomb would fall either on the United States or on any other country, unless an aggression is committed....But if the aggressors touch off a war, the Soviet Union would strike a most powerful retaliatory blow." The statement insisted that the weapons provided to Cuba by the Soviet Union were "aimed solely at enhancing Cuba's defense potential."

23 Oct Premier Castro described the U. S. blockade of Cuba as an act of piracy and said that Cuba would never accept the U. S. plan for a U. N. investigating committee to check on Soviet missile bases in Cuba.

23 Oct An Executive Order issued by the President gave the Secretary of Defense authority to order to active duty up to 150,000 members of the Ready Reserve and to extend enlistments and tours of duty -- in each case for a period not to exceed 12 months -- if such measures were believed necessary.

23 Oct The British Government expressed "deep concern at the provocative action of the Soviet Union in placing offensive nuclear weapons in Cuba," and declared its support of the U. S. position.

- 23 Oct The Japanese Cabinet agreed to a request from President Kennedy for support for steps to be taken in the U.N. regarding settlement of the Cuban crisis. The Philippines, Nationalist China, South Korea, and Australia also indicated their support of the measures taken by the United States.
- 24 Oct Premier Khrushchev, replying to a cable from the British philosopher, Lord Russell, said that he would take no "reckless action."
- 24 Oct UN Acting Secretary General U Thant sent "urgent" appeals to President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev asking them to suspend, respectively, the blockade and the shipment of arms to Cuba, for a period of 2 or 3 weeks which would allow for negotiations. Thant offered to make himself available to all parties for whatever services he could render.
- 24-25 Oct Argentina, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Columbia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Nicaragua, and Guatemala, as well as other American countries, offered varying degrees of military assistance to the U.S. The U.S. Government welcomed the offers as a manifestation of hemisphere solidarity and evidence of collective rather than unilateral action against Cuba.

- 25 Oct Canadian Prime Minister Diefenbaker indicated strong Canadian support for the U.S. in a speech in the House of Commons. He termed the missile bases in Cuba as "a direct and immediate menace to Canada."
- 26 Oct Premier Khrushchev accepted U Thant's proposal of 24 Oct for a suspension of the U. S. blockade and the Soviet shipment of arms, and for talks leading to a negotiated solution to the Cuban crisis. In his reply to U Thant, President Kennedy said that "the existing threat was created by the secret introduction of offensive weapons into Cuba, and the answer lies in the removal of these weapons." He said that the U.S. was willing to engage in "preliminary talks" with the U.N. to see whether a satisfactory basis could be found for negotiations on the Cuban crisis.
- 26 Oct The Defense Department announced that it "now appears that at least a dozen Soviet vessels have turned back, presumably because, according to the best of our information, they might have been carrying offensive materials." The statement also announced that the first Russian ship intercepted by the Navy was allowed to proceed because the "Navy satisfied itself that no prohibited material was aboard."

- 25 Oct In the U.N. Security Council, U.S. delegate Adlai Stevenson displayed photographic evidence of Soviet missile bases in Cuba, after Soviet delegate Valerian Sorin insisted that the U. S. assertion was based on false evidence.
- 25 Oct Blas Roca, a Cuban Communist party leader, said in East Berlin that Cuba "has Russian arms and intends to get more." He also said that Cuba was ready to talk things over with the United States.
- 25 Oct Assistant Secretary of Defense Arthur Sylvester said that late intelligence from Cuba showed that missile construction work was still going on.
- 25 Oct In answer to a new appeal from U.N. Secretary General U Thant, Premier Khrushchev agreed to keep Soviet ships away from the U.S. blockade area for the time being, and President Kennedy said that he would try to avoid any direct confrontation at sea "in the next few days." The President pointed out, however, that certain Soviet ships were still proceeding toward Cuba, and that work on Soviet missile bases in Cuba was still continuing.
- 26 Oct President Kennedy received a message (not made public) from Premier Khrushchev in which, according to the New York Times, was embedded "an offer to withdraw the

offensive weapons under UN supervision in return for
a guarantee that the U. S. would not invade Cuba."

27 Oct

President Kennedy received a second message from Premier Khrushchev, made public in a Moscow broadcast, which proposed that the Soviet Union would dismantle its missile bases in Cuba and withdraw its jet bombers, if the U. S. would do likewise in Turkey. In his reply, the President ignored the proposal to link Turkey with Cuba, and based his answer on Khrushchev's private letter of the day before, which he said contained proposals "which seem generally acceptable." The President emphasized that "the first ingredient . . . is the cessation of work on missile sites in Cuba and measures to render such weapons inoperable, under effective international guarantees." He also said that this country "is very much interested in reducing tensions and halting the Arms race; and if your letter signifies that you are prepared to discuss a detente affecting NATO and the Warsaw Pact, we are quite prepared to consider with our allies any useful proposals."

27 Oct

The Defense Department announced that a U-2 reconnaissance plane was missing and presumed lost over Cuba, and that other unarmed U. S. planes on surveillance missions over

Cuba had been fired on. The Department warned that measures would be taken to "insure that such missions are effective and protected." At the same time, it announced that 24 troop-carrier squadrons of the Air Force Reserve, 8 troop-carrier wing headquarters, and 6 aerial port squadrons were being recalled to active duty.

27 Oct

In reply to a message from U Thant, Premier Castro said that Cuba would suspend work on missile bases while negotiations were in progress if the U.S. "desists from threats and aggressive actions against Cuba, including the naval blockade of our country." He invited U Thant to come to Cuba "with a view to direct discussions on the present crisis." Castro said that Cuba "flatly rejects the violation of the sovereignty of our country involved in the naval blockade, an act of force and war."

28 Oct

In a message to President Kennedy, Premier Khrushchev announced that he had ordered the dismantling of Soviet offensive weapons to the Soviet Union, to be carried out under UN supervision. He made no reference to a withdrawal of U.S. missiles from Turkey. President Kennedy issued a statement welcoming Khrushchev's "statesmanlike decision," and said in reply to Khrushchev that the Cuban blockade would be removed as soon as the

UN has taken the "necessary measures." He pledged that the U.S. would not invade Cuba and said that he attached great importance to a rapid settlement of the Cuban crisis, because "developments were approaching a point where events could have become unmanageable."

23 Oct U Thant announced that he had accepted Premier Castro's invitation to visit Cuba and stated that he hoped a solution could be reached which would assure "the principle of respect for Cuba" and would "reassure other countries which have felt themselves threatened by recent developments in Cuba."

23 Oct Premier Castro issued a statement which declared that the U.S. must fulfill 6 conditions if the present crisis were to be resolved. These were: (1) End of economic blockade and all measures of commercial and economic pressure exercised against Cuba by the U.S. (2) End of all subversive activities, dropping and landing of arms and explosives by air and sea, organization of mercenary invasions, infiltration of spies and saboteurs, "all of which actions are organized in the territory of the United States and certain accomplice countries." (3) End of pirate attacks carried out from bases in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. (4) End of all violations of air and naval space by U.S. planes and ships. (5) U.S. withdrawal from the naval base of Guantanamo and return of this territory to Cuba.

- ✓ 28 Oct Premier Khrushchev announced that First Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily V. Kuznetsov had been assigned to carry on negotiations over the dismantling of missiles and the removal of offensive weapons from Cuba.
- 29 Oct The U.S. announced that it will lift the blockade of Cuba for 2 days, at the request of the U.N. Secretary General during the latter's mission to Cuba which would begin on 30 Oct.
- 29 Oct President Kennedy appointed a three-man coordinating committee (John J. McCloy, former disarmament advisor, Under Secretary of State George Ball, and Deputy Secretary of Defense Roswell Gilpatric) to carry on negotiations for a conclusion of the Cuban crisis with U Thant and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily Kuznetsov.

UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD CUBA
AND RELATED EVENTS
(30 October 1962 - 15 March 1963)

- 30 Oct 1962 UN Secretary General U Thant, accompanied by 18 UN officials, arrived in Havana for talks with Premier Castro with regard to UN supervision and verification of the dismantling and removal of Soviet missiles from Cuba. On his return to New York on Oct 31, U Thant said that he was "reliably informed" that Soviet missiles in Cuba were being dismantled and that this operation would be completed by Nov 2. He also said that he was informed that arrangements for shipping the missiles back to the Soviet Union were "in hand." He described his talks with Castro as "fruitful."
- 31 Oct 1962 It was announced in Moscow that Premier Khrushchev was sending First Deputy Premier Anastas I. Mikoyan on an urgent mission to Cuba.
- 31 Oct 1962 The Communist Chinese newspaper People's Daily published an editorial which indirectly accused Soviet Premier Khrushchev of yielding to the "U.S. imperialist attempt to browbeat the people of the world into retreat at the expense of Cuba."
- 1 Nov 1962 A Communist Chinese note to Cuba gave "unreserved support" to Cuba's "just demands," which included U.S. evacuation of Guantanamo. The note assured the Cuban people that China would stand by them and "fight against our common enemy, United States imperialism, to the very end."

1 Nov 1962

Premier Castro categorically rejected any international inspection of the withdrawal of Soviet missiles from Cuba. He also turned down a Soviet proposal that the International Red Cross Committee be entrusted with the task of inspection. Castro said that "we respect the Soviet decision to withdraw their strategic weapons," and that Cuba was not trying to hinder their withdrawal. He declared: "If we have any misunderstandings with the Soviets they must be discussed only among the principals and not before the world. . . . We trust the principles of the Soviet Union. . . . Between the Soviet Union and Cuba there will never be a breach."

2 Nov

President Kennedy, in a broadcast report to the nation on the Cuban crisis, said that serial reconnaissance showed that "the Soviet missile bases in Cuba are being dismantled, their missiles and related equipment are being crated and the fixed installations at these sites are being destroyed." He declared that the U.S. will "follow closely the completion of this work through a variety of means, including aerial surveillance, until such time as an equally satisfactory international means of verification is effected." He said that the quarantine will remain in effect until "adequate procedures can be developed for international inspection of Cuba-bound cargoes," and added that the International Committee of the Red Cross would be "an appropriate agent" for this task. He asserted that "progress

is now being made toward the restoration of peace in the Caribbean."

2 Nov 1962 Soviet First Deputy Premier Anastas I. Mikoyan arrived in Havana for talks with Premier Castro.

4 Nov A meeting was held in New York between John J. McCloy, chairman of the U.S. Coordinating Committee on Cuba, and Vassily Kuznetsov, special Soviet representative for the U.S.-Soviet-U.N. talks on Cuba. According to the New York Times, the U.S. was reported to have protested that the Soviet Union had failed to remove jet bombers from Cuba.

5 Nov The International Red Cross Committee declared that it had been informed through the U.N. of Premier Castro's agreement to its representatives inspecting Cuban-bound ships to determine whether they carried offensive weapons.

6 Nov U.S. Ambassador Adlai Stevenson conferred with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily V. Kuznetsov in New York. After the meeting, Stevenson said: "The missiles are moving out and the talks are moving on."

7 Nov Soviet Premier Khrushchev announced that the Soviet Union had taken its rockets out of Cuba and that they were "probably" on their way back to the Soviet Union. He asserted that there was a total of 40 Soviet rockets in Cuba.

Subsequently the U.S. Defense Department announced: "The Soviet Union has reported ships are leaving Cuba with missiles aboard. Arrangements are being made with Soviet representatives for contact with these ships by United States naval vessels and for counting the missiles being shipped out." (The U.S. and the Soviet Union also reached agreement that inbound Soviet vessels headed toward Cuba would be inspected by the International Red Cross Committee.)

8 Nov 1962

U.S. Defense Department announced that aerial reconnaissance showed that "all known" offensive missile bases in Cuba had been moved from the missile sites to port areas; "a substantial number of missile transporters have been loaded on to the main decks of certain Soviet cargo vessels . . . and several of these vessels have already departed Cuban ports." The statement also said: "Within the next 24 hours [the U.S.] expects to obtain additional confirmation through the close alongside-observation of Soviet vessels by U.S. Naval vessels. It is understood Soviet vessels will cooperate in this."

9 Nov

U.S. Defense Department reported that U.S. Navy vessels intercepted 5 Soviet cargo ships outward bound from Cuba. Three of the ships were carrying missiles back to Russia. No Americans boarded the Soviet ships which were inspected by U.S. destroyers which pulled alongside and helicopters which flew overhead.

- ✓ 10 Nov 1962 Havana Communist daily Hoy reported that Soviet economic aid to Cuba amounted to \$912 million since the first Soviet-Cuban trade agreement was signed in Feb 1960. Soviet aid is reported by Hoy to have been distributed as follows: new industrial plants, machinery and equipment - \$192 million; food - \$130 million; raw materials - \$416 million; trucks and transportation - \$131 million. In addition, some 3,000 Cubans, according to Hoy, had been or were being trained in the Soviet Union.
- 11 Nov U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense, Roswell L. Gilpatric, announced that the U.S. had counted 42 medium-range missiles being removed from Cuba on Soviet ships. He declared that the U.S. cannot be certain "that 42 was the maximum number that the Soviets brought to Cuba" until on-site inspection is carried out in Cuba. With regard to the IL-28 bombers which the Soviet Union sent to Cuba Gilpatric said: "We hold the Soviet responsible for the types of military equipment which it has furnished to Castro and as of the present time, we regard the removal of those bombers as within the capacity of the Soviets to bring about." He also said: "We regard aerial surveillance as a part of our inherent self-defense, a means of protecting our country as we would through any form of intelligence collection. The extent to which we will need to rely on continued air surveillance over Cuba will depend

again on what the nature of the threat is that remains in Cuba after the Soviets have completed, if they do complete, the undertakings made by Premier Khrushchev to President Kennedy."

12 Nov 1962

International Chamber of Shipping consisting of independent shipping associations in 18 maritime nations outside the Communist bloc, rejected, at a meeting in London, a U.S.-sponsored proposal recommending that member shipping associations should withdraw voluntarily from trade with Cuba.

On the same day, Soviet First Deputy Premier Anastas Mikoyan, in a speech at Havana University, declared that the Soviet Government supported Premier Castro's five demands which he described as "a program for peace in the Caribbean." He added: "The Soviet Government will always be behind Premier Castro and the Cuban people."

13 Nov

The Soviet Union and Cuba submitted to U.N. Secretary General U Thant a joint proposal to settle the Cuban crisis. Although the nature of the proposal was not disclosed, the New York Times stated that "it would give neutralist ambassadors stationed in Havana a vaguely defined observer function. . . . Apparently the . . . proposal was intended as a substitute for the abortive plan for the Red Cross inspection of ships bound for Cuba."

The International Red Cross issued a statement (in Geneva)

specifying that only in a case that it considered a major threat to world peace and to the survival of humanity would it consider providing inspectors for ships bound for Cuba.

✓ 14 Nov 1962

U.S. State Department announced that air reconnaissance photographs showed that the Soviet Union was constructing naval facilities at the "fishing port" of Banes, in north-Cuba. The State Department warned that "appropriate measures" would be taken if such facilities represented "a military threat" to the U.S. or to the hemisphere.

✓ 15 Nov

After talks with President Kennedy, West German Chancellor Koenrad Adenauer declared to newsmen in Washington: "If you hear only of peaceful coexistence over and over again, then you gradually get used to believing that such a state exists with the other side. But in the future, when I hear peaceful coexistence mentioned again, I will think of Cuba."

On the same day, Premier Fidel Castro warned in a letter to U.N. Secretary General U Thant that Cuba would shoot down any planes flying reconnaissance missions over Cuba.

16 Nov

The U.S. declared it would continue its reconnaissance flights over Cuba and take "appropriate measures" to protect its planes.

16 Nov

Under Secretary of State George W. Ball, addressing the NATO

Parliamentarians Conference in Paris, said that three precepts could be drawn from the missile crisis: (1) that the Atlantic nations of the NATO Pact were all in the Cuban crisis together, "as they must necessarily be in every major East-West confrontation;" (2) that the crisis had illustrated "the wisdom — indeed the necessity — of the measured response." Through the choice of a limited response — a quarantine intercepting the buildup of offensive weapons in Cuba — the United States avoided resort to an immediate use of force that might have led to war and an ascending scale of violence with the Soviet Union; (3) that a quick response was needed to a sudden danger. If the nations of the NATO alliance are "to be able to respond with the necessary decisiveness to the challenges ahead, we must be able to act on the basis of solid planning directed at a great variety of contingencies."

19 Nov 1962

Premier Castro sent a message to UN Secretary General U Thant declaring that Cuba would not object if the Soviet Union removed the IL-28 jet bombers from Cuba, which Castro had previously claimed as Cuban property. Castro described the bombers as "antiquated equipment in relation to modern means of anti-aircraft defense."

20 Nov

In his news conference President Kennedy announced that he had ordered the lifting of the naval blockade of Cuba after being

informed earlier the same day by Soviet Premier Khrushchev that all of the IL-28 bombers then in Cuba would be withdrawn in 30 days. Kennedy reported that progress had been made in fulfillment of his agreement with Premier Khrushchev on the withdrawal of Soviet missiles and other offensive weapons from Cuba. "Nevertheless," he said, "important parts of the understanding of Oct. 27 and 28 remain to be carried out. The Cuban Government has not yet permitted the United Nations to verify whether all offensive weapons have been removed and no lasting safeguards have yet been established against the future introduction of offensive weapons back into Cuba."

Consequently . . . [the U.S.] has no choice but to pursue its own means of checking on military activities in Cuba. The importance of our continued vigilance is underlined by our identification in recent days of a number of Soviet ground combat units in Cuba. Although we are informed that these and other Soviet units were associated with the protection of offensive weapons systems and will also be withdrawn in due course, I repeat we would like nothing better than adequate international arrangement for the task of inspection and verification in Cuba." Kennedy said that if these measures are carried out "and if Cuba is not used for the export of aggressive Communist purposes, there will be peace in the

Caribbean." He added: "We will not, of course, abandon the political, economic and other efforts of this hemisphere to halt subversion from Cuba, nor our purpose and hope that the Cuban people shall some day be truly free. But these policies are very different from any intent to launch a military invasion of the island." He expressed the hope that "the achievement of a peaceful solution of the Cuban crisis might well open the door to the solution of other outstanding problems."

- 21 Nov 1962 The Soviet Union ended the combat-readiness alert of its armed forces imposed at the beginning of the Cuban crisis. Most of the U.S. ships participating in the blockade of Cuba returned to their ports. The U.S. Defense Department ordered the release from active duty of 14,200 Air Force Reservists called to active duty during the Cuban crisis; canceled involuntary duty extensions of Navy and Marine Corps personnel, and ended the special alert of the Strategic Air Command.
- 24 Nov The Castro Government began demobilization of military units called to arms on Oct 22.
- 26 Nov The Cuban Government newspaper Revolucion reported that Cuba would permit U.N. investigators to verify the removal of Soviet missiles from Cuba if the U.S. would agree to U.N. supervision of the dismantling of "training camps of mercenaries,

pies, saboteurs and terrorists" allegedly set up as anti-Castro bases on U.S. soil. The U.S. rejected this proposal.

On the same day, Soviet First Deputy Premier Anastas I. Mikoyan left Cuba and returned to New York. At a dinner given by U.N. Secretary General U Thant, Mikoyan conferred with Adlai Stevenson and other top U.S. negotiators. Mikoyan said ^(to newsmen after the dinner) that the remaining differences between the United States and the Soviet Union were "sharp."

28 Nov 1962

In a television interview, Secretary of State Rusk commented on the world impact of the Cuban crisis by saying that he thought "the unanimity in the OAS and in NATO had some bearing on what Moscow's decisions turned out to be in this situation. Had there been dissimilarity, and had we fallen to quarreling among ourselves, I think the results might have been quite different. I think it gives us all some confidence for the future."

29 Nov

President Kennedy and Mikoyan met for over 3 hours in Washington. Agreement to continue U.S.-Soviet negotiations on the Cuban situation at the U.N. was subsequently announced.

3 Dec

The Defense Department announced that Soviet IL-28 jet bombers were being shipped out of Cuba in fulfillment of Premier Khrushchev's promise to President Kennedy. U.S. Navy planes were reported to have spotted a Soviet freighter outward bound from Cuba, carrying on deck at least 3 such dismantled planes.

✓ 3 Dec 1962

Cuban Government nationalized most wholesale and retail firms dealing in clothing, shoes and hardware.

3 Dec

A 16-man Cuban economic mission, headed by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, chief of the Agrarian Reform Institute, left for Moscow and subsequently for Peking to negotiate trade pacts for 1963.

According to the New York Times, "Official Soviet and Cuban figures show that the two-way/agreements this year [1962] called for \$750,000,000, but no statistics are available to indicate whether these transactions were actually carried out, particularly in the case of Soviet exports to the island. With a 1963 sugar crop that is expected to dip below 4,500,000 tons, compared with 4,800,000 tons this year, Cuba will need additional Soviet credits to finance her imports and to be able to purchase food in the world market. . . . New figures covering exchanges between the Cubans and the Chinese this year show that their relations were highly unfavorable to Havana. Thus, in the first 8 months of 1962, Cuba exported to Communist China \$85,000,000 worth of sugar, nickel, copper, tobacco and canned fruit, but received in return only \$45,000,000 worth of rice, textiles, canned meat and other products."

6 Dec

U.S. Defense Department announced that U.S. navy planes spotted 3 Soviet ships leaving Cuba with a total of 42 jet bombers aboard.

12 Dec 1962

In a foreign policy speech to the Supreme Soviet, his first major speech since the Cuban crisis Premier Khrushchev warned that "if the commitments assumed [regarding Cuba] are not observed by the other side [the U.S.], we shall be compelled to take such action as may be required by the situation." He also rejected Albanian criticisms of the Soviet military withdrawal from Cuba, and denounced "ultra-revolutionaries" who try to push the Soviet Union into a thermonuclear war against the U.S.

On the same day, President Kennedy, at his press conference declared that the U.S. was taking "every step that is necessary" to make certain that Soviet offensive weapons were not reintroduced into Cuba.

13 Dec

In a speech delivered in New York, Secretary Rusk summarized the Cuban crisis as one in which the vital interests of the U.S. and the aggressive intentions of the Soviet Union appeared in direct confrontation. But at the same time, the Secretary added, "the crisis was part of the conflict between the U.S. and the Castro government, which had permitted itself to be used as a tool for Soviet ambitions." Even in terms of the conflict with Castro, the Secretary said: "this is an oversimplification. The prime menace of Castroism is the danger of Communist infection of Latin America. . . . Nor could one be certain that the Soviet Union would confine its reaction to the Western Hemisphere."

The problem, Bush continued, was one of several dimensions, calling for a solution that met and balanced many simultaneous objectives, not one simple objective. The problem was to design the kind of measured response that would remove the threat to the Western Hemisphere and to the political and military balance of the world in a way that:

First, posed a minimum risk to ourselves and our allies;

Second, involved a minimum danger of escalation toward higher orders of violence.

Third, was consistent with our treaty obligations; and

Fourth, did not contravene the principles for which we stood as a nation.

The choice of available response covered a broad spectrum.

• • • We were presented • • • with an equation of compound variables and multiple unknowns."

19 Dec 1962

It was announced in Moscow that the Soviet Union and Cuba would increase trade in 1963 to enable Cuba to "overcome the imperialist economic blockade."

The Philadelphia Inquirer reported on the economic treaty signed in Moscow to "help develop the island's economy." "The treaty was signed between Cuba and six European Communist countries — the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Rumania. It is believed that the basis of the

new agreement was arranged between Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and Soviet Deputy Premier Anastas Mikoyan during the latter's stay in Cuba.

21 Dec 1962

Premier Fidel Castro and James B. Donovan, New York lawyer negotiating on behalf of the Cuban prisoners' families, signed an agreement to exchange the 1,113 Bay of Pigs invasion prisoners for \$53,000,000 worth of medicines and food, donated by U.S. firms. Two days later the released prisoners arrived in Miami.

29 Dec

At a rally of Cuban exiles in Miami, President Kennedy was presented with the battle flag of the Cuban Refugee Brigade, which carried out the invasion of the Bay of Pigs. He promised that "this flag will be returned to this Brigade in a free Havana". He said: "The Cuban people were promised by the revolution political liberty, social justice, intellectual freedom, land for the campesinos, and an end to economic exploitation. They have received a police state, the elimination of the dignity of land ownership, the destruction of free speech and of free press, and the complete subjugation of individual human welfare to the service of the state and of foreign states. . . . We support the right of every free people to freely transform the economic and political institutions of society so that they may serve the welfare of all. . . . I am confident that all over the island of Cuba, in the Government itself, in the army and in the militia, there are many who hold to this

freedom faith, who have viewed with dismay the destruction of freedom on their island and who are determined to restore that freedom so that the Cuban people may once more govern themselves." He urged the Cuban refugees "to submerge those differences which now may disturb you," and he assured them that "it is the strongest wish of the people of this country, as well as the people of this hemisphere, that Cuba shall one day be free again."

On the same day, official Soviet news agency Tass declared: "President Kennedy's bellicose statements at the rally of Cuban counterrevolutionaries cannot but cause perplexity and concern. It is well known that during the settlement of the Caribbean crisis, President Kennedy promised that the United States would not attack Cuba and would prevent other Latin American countries from attacking her."

31 Dec 1962

Cuban President Osvaldo Dorticos claimed that Cuba's economy has grown more than 30% since 1958 and that unemployment has dropped from 500,000 in 1958 to 220,000 this year. He said that about half the arable land is under "socialist forms of production," and more than 90% of industrial production comes from the state-owned sectors of the economy. He conceded that Cuba's advances had been hindered by "undeniably costly errors" which included underestimation of the importance to the economy of the sugar industry. He said that exports

have fallen because agriculture was affected by lack of imported products, and by "lack of organization, a shortage of skilled workers, and a drop in work discipline."

✓ 1 Jan 1963

President Kennedy defined U.S. policy toward the Castro regime in Cuba. He said that the U.S. Government would not support an invasion by any force, including Cuban refugees, unless there was an aggressive act by Premier Castro, but that his Administration was equally committed to working for an ultimate change in the Cuban regime and to the breaking of Havana's links with Moscow. He said that one of the major purposes of his speech to the Cuban refugees in Miami on Dec 29 was to assure both the world and the Cuban population -- including dissidents in the Cuban Government and in the military -- that the U.S. had no plans to impose a regime on Cuba or to return the island to the pre-Castro status quo.

2 Jan

Premier Castro, in a speech during celebrations in Havana of the fourth anniversary of his revolution, attacked President Kennedy's welcome address in Miami to the freed Cuban prisoners and said that Kennedy "acted like a vulgar pirate chief." He expressed concern about "discrepancies splitting the Marxist-Leninist world" and said that Cuba has "the great historic task of carrying forward this revolution, of serving as an example for the revolution of Latin America and within the socialist camp, within the great socialist family, which is and always will be our family." He reiterated that Cuba will never allow any

✓ 3 Jan

inspection of the dismantled Soviet missile sites, a demand which, he said, was only designed to humiliate Cuba. Prior to Castro's speech, a parade of Soviet military weapons was held, which included some ground-to-air missiles. U.S. State Department makes public current U.S. intelligence estimates of Cuban armed strength. The estimates indicate:

(1) A standing army of 75,000 plus 150,000 in a ready reserve and home guard militia. (2) 500 missiles for 144 launchers at 24 anti-aircraft sites. (3) 40 missiles at 4 or 5 sites for coastal defense use. (4) 12 cruise missile boats, each with 2 short-range missiles. (5) More than 100 Mig jet fighters. (6) About 90 helicopters from the Communist bloc, plus a dozen U.S. helicopters dating from pre-Castro days. (7) 18 to 20 Soviet transports, plus miscellaneous warplanes including 17 U.S. B-70s and 10 British Sea Fury fighter-bombers. (8) 6 sub chasers, 16 motor torpedo boats, several small patrol and surface vessels, about 50 small American-type patrol boats, plus fishing and pleasure boats armed for patrol work. (9) About 350 medium and heavy tanks, plus light amphibious tanks, armored personnel carrier and scout cars. (10) 75 assault guns, 1,300 pieces of field artillery ranging from 14.5 mm. field guns to 152 mm. Howitzers; about 700 anti-aircraft guns.

- 7 Jan The U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., Adlai Stevenson, and the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, Vassily Kuznetsov, addressed a joint letter to U.N. Secretary-General U Thant, in which "on behalf of the Governments of the United States of America and the Soviet Union we desire to express to you our appreciation of your efforts in assisting our Governments to avert the serious threat to peace which recently arose in the Caribbean area." U Thant was told that they had not been able to solve all aspects of the crisis. However, in view of the degree of understanding that was reached between them, both Governments held that it was no longer necessary for this issue "to occupy further the attention of the Security Council at this time."
- ✓ 8 Jan Sterling J. Cottrell, a U.S. Foreign Service officer, formerly head of a task force on Mexican problems, was appointed coordinator of U.S. Government activities dealing with Cuba.
- 11 Jan The U.S. State Department disclosed that warnings had been sent to countries whose ships were engaged in the Cuba trade that they risked losing U.S. aid in accordance with a proviso attached by Congress in Oct 1962 to the new U.S. foreign aid law.
- 14 Jan West Germany severed both diplomatic and consular relations with Cuba.

16 Jan

Premier Castro delivered a major policy statement in a speech to the Congress of Women of the Americas in which he stated the Cuban Government's position of encouraging and supporting armed insurrection in other countries of this hemisphere.

✓ 21 Jan

In a television interview, Secretary Rusk was asked to discuss a possible "no-invasion" pledge which the Government might have made to the Soviet Union. Mr. Rusk said: "It was not the purpose or the intention of the U.S. to invade Cuba, with the enormous loss of life that would incur, except in defense of the Hemisphere, except on a major security issue which required it. The introduction of offensive missiles was such a threat. . . . Now, the question of peace in the Caribbean is largely a question of the behavior of Cuba. The President has said that, if Cuba does not become a base for aggression, he will not initiate or permit aggression in the Caribbean. But this also means, as he said, that we will not abandon other measures directed to insuring that Cuba not be a source of infection for the rest of the hemisphere."

✓ 24 Jan

President Kennedy stated at his news conference that with the exception of the arrival of one Soviet ship in Cuba since the missile crisis, there was no evidence of an influx of Soviet military equipment" into Cuba.

✓ 27 Jan

During a televised interview, Secretary Rusk said that the presence of Soviet troops in Cuba "will have to remain a matter of concern" to the U.S. He indicated that there were four relatively small but heavily armed Soviet combat units in Cuba. It must be U.S. policy, he said, that the penetration of the Western Hemisphere by a Communist regime backed from the outside is "unacceptable."

✓ 1 Feb

Secretary Rusk stated at a press conference that "on the matter of free-world shipping to Cuba as a part of the problem of the economic isolation of Cuba there has been a substantial change in the situation. For example, last July there were in the general order of 90 free-world ships in the Cuban trade. I think in January there was something less than 15, and most of a good many of those were on long-term charter from free-world flag countries to bloc enterprises. So there are points at which the attitude of the hemisphere and the free world toward Cuba has been taking a very practical effect."

✓ 6 Feb

Secretary of Defense McNamara, in a 2-hour TV press interview at the State Department, said Soviet missiles had been removed from Cuba "beyond any reasonable doubt." Declaring that the U.S. would "not tolerate the use of Cuba as a base for the export of aggression, subversion," McNamara said the U.S. had "positive evidence" that Soviet

missile submarine bases had not been established in the Caribbean.

Hollings gave this U.S. "estimate of Soviet military strength in Cuba": Soviet personnel there numbered about 17,000, including technicians and 4 combat forces totaling about 3,000 men; the 17,000 Russians represented a drop of 3,000 from the estimated 22,000 in Cuba Nov. 1; the U.S. had evidence that "rocket equipment" of Soviet combat forces was being withdrawn; the U.S. was maintaining photographic surveillance of Cuba at least once a week, all Soviet ships arriving and leaving Cuba were watched; about 162 MIG fighters, including MIG-21s were in Cuba but had no nuclear bombing capacity.

6 Feb
The White House announced that steps have been taken to assure that U.S. government-financed cargoes are not shipped on foreign-flag vessels engaging in trade with Cuba.

7 Feb
At his news conference, President Kennedy declared that the Soviet military personnel and equipment currently known to be in Cuba did not constitute a direct threat to the U.S. or other American nations. Mr. Kennedy's assessment contradicted charges that these forces included combat units and possibly hidden ballistic missiles that directly threatened the western hemisphere. The President challenged his critics to substantiate their charges. He

warned that if the USSR had reintroduced aggressive missiles in Cuba, it would be responsible for the greatest crisis the world has faced."

Mr. Kennedy said that the U.S. was pressing the "unfinished business" of the Soviet troops remaining in Cuba, and he hoped to obtain a commitment from Soviet Premier Khrushchev to carry out his pledge for their withdrawal.

The President gave assurances that the U.S. was keeping a close watch on the Cuban military situation.

Answering reporters questions as to whether he regarded Cuba -- and the Soviet forces on the island -- as a serious military threat, the President said:

"I think we ought to keep a sense of proportion about the size of the Soviet force we are talking about. We are talking about 4 groups, 1,100 to 1,200 men each. Those are the organized military units. That is about 6,000 men. Obviously, those forces cannot be used to invade another country."

"It may be that there are hidden away some missiles. Nobody can prove . . . that they are not there, or they might be brought in. But they are going to have to be erected, and we continue complete surveillance."

The President agreed with a newsmen's description of on-site Cuban inspection as a "dead letter." He said:

"There has been no on-site inspection and I don't expect to get any."

✓ 9 Feb 1963

Premier Khrushchev asserted that there were no nuclear weapons in Cuba and the Russian troops remaining there should not alarm the U.S. "A certain number" of Soviet soldiers still in Cuba were there, he said, to teach Castro's troops how to use modern Russian weapons.

✓ 9 Feb

Secretary of State Rusk called Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin to the State Department reportedly to ask him to convey to the Soviet government the deepened concern of the US over Russian troops in Cuba. When asked when the Russian troops would be removed, Dobrynin is reported to have said that they were "weapons instructors," and not the combat personnel that Khrushchev had promised to withdraw.

✓ 13 Feb

Secretary Rusk announced that the U.S. regretted that the U.N. Special Fund and the Food and Agriculture Organization had decided to proceed with the project to assist the expansion of an agricultural research station in Cuba. "We strongly object," said the Secretary, "on political grounds because of the aggressive attitude which Cuba has taken toward its own neighbors in the hemisphere, as well as on technical grounds because we do not see in Cuba the conditions which would make this kind of research

project productive."

- ✓ 15 Feb 1965 At a news conference, the President noted a substantial reduction in the number of free world ships going into Cuba of about 90 percent over the past two years. In January only 12 free world ships entered Cuban ports. Two years ago, he noted, free-world trade with Cuba was about \$90 million dollars in value; it was now about \$0 million.
- ✓ 18 Feb In a message delivered to President Kennedy by Ambassador Dobrynin, the USSR said that "several thousand" of its estimated 17,000 troops in Cuba would be withdrawn. The message apparently set 15 March as the deadline for their departure.
- ✓ 18 Feb In a major statement made before the Latin American Subcommittee of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Edwin M. Martin, the Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs, reviewed the strategy and tactics of the Castro regime. From the beginning, he noted, the strategy of this regime "has remained one of exporting its revolution." In the face of this Communist subversive offensive, two approaches are being taken, according to Assistant Secretary Martin. One is to isolate Cuba from the hemisphere and discredit

the image of the Cuban revolution in this hemisphere. The other is to improve the internal security capabilities of the countries concerned. Even more important over the long term would be the achievement of the goals of the Alliance for Progress.

- ✓ 19 Feb 1963 In testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee (not made public until 1 March), CIA Director John McCone estimated that Cuba is training Latin-American subversives, saboteurs, and terrorists at the rate of about 1500 a year.
- 21 Feb The United States delivered a note to the Cuban Government, protesting an "unprovoked and willful attack on the high seas upon an unarmed and disabled private United States fishing vessel and upon United States citizens by Cuban military aircraft." The Cuban Government was accordingly informed "that the Government of the United States will take those measures necessary to protect the life and property of its nationals on the high seas against such attacks."
- 22 Feb A 45-page report by the special security committee of the OAS, was made public. The report claimed that "Cuba is being used as a base for training communism and its spread in America." Cuba was charged with

having nine schools which taught Communist methodology as well as Marxist-Leninist theory. Moreover, nations maintaining diplomatic relations with Cuba have given that country channels through which to finance and promote subversion in Latin America. Proposals to isolate Cuba included a ban on travel to and from Cuba, suppression of Communist propaganda, halt in the flow of money to American Communist groups, a ban on clandestine and illegal radio stations broadcasting Communist propaganda, ban on pro-Communist films, restriction on the movements of Soviet-bloc diplomats, strict controls on movement of narcotics (used to raise money for subversion), and convening of a conference of the Americas' security and intelligence chiefs to coordinate efforts to combat subversion.

22 Feb 1968

Cuba denied U.S. charges that its planes had attacked a shrimp boat. It asserted that Cuban planes "had flown low" over the ship in an attempt to find 2 Cuban vessels attacked and hijacked on 14 Feb.

22 Feb

Soviet Defense Minister Malinovsky warned the U.S. that an American attack on Cuba would bring Russia to Cuba's aid and begin World War III. Malinovsky also charged the U.S. with "new provocations," alleging that U.S. vessels had harassed Soviet ships en route to Cuba.

✓ 26 Feb 1963

Secretary Rusk said at a news conference that the Government was "very much interested in the continued outmovement of Soviet forces in Cuba." In October and November, he said, "the missiles and bombers were removed;" and that it was indicated "that several thousand additional Soviet forces will be removed between now and the middle of March." He repeated that the Soviet military "presence in the hemisphere cannot be accepted as a matter of policy by the hemisphere, and steps will be taken to underline that and to give it force and effect."

27 Feb

Premier Khrushchev said that Russia would come to the aid of Cuba or any other "Socialist" country in the event of invasion by U.S. "imperialists."

✓ 28 Feb

At his press conference Secretary McNamara was asked what the U.S. would do if Soviet troops were used to crush an anti-Castro revolt in Cuba. McNamara replied that the U.S. would "not accept operations in this hemisphere--combat operations--by Soviet personnel."

2 Mar

The Associated Press reported that some 2000 Russians sailed from Havana aboard a medium-sized Soviet liner. It was not known whether those departing were soldiers or civilians.

6 Mar 1963

At his news conference President Kennedy urged Latin American countries not to let their citizens go to Cuba for training in subversion. He termed this "the wisest policy" for bringing about "the isolation of communism in this hemisphere." Mr. Kennedy also said that the U.S. would not impose a naval blockade on Cuba to deprive it of oil, because that would be "an act of war," and "at this time we do not believe that war in the Caribbean is to the national advantage." The President was dissatisfied with the rate of Soviet troop withdrawal from Cuba and said that we "regard the Soviet presence in Cuba as unacceptable to us."

6 Mar

Major Gen. A. E. Fitch, Chief of Army Intelligence, told the Senate Armed Services Preparedness Subcommittee that there were no indications that the Russians had removed any ground force units from Cuba other than those associated with the dismantled offensive missile systems. General Fitch also confirmed reports that the Russians were converting some Cuban caves into storage units and said that in some cases it was reported that only Russians had access to the caves. He declared that the Russian offensive missiles were removed, but pointed out that some of the modern weapons in Cuba have a "nuclear capability."

- 6 Mar 1963 Radio Havana announced that 25 Cubans were given scholarships to study agriculture in Red China.
- 7 Mar In an interview, Secretary Rusk said that about 200,000 Cubans have left their country since Castro took over and that "several hundred thousand" more wish to leave. He added, "There is no question whatever in my mind that the Cuban people will again be free. But we cannot be precise today about just how and when this will come about."
- 8 Mar At his news conference, Secretary of State Rusk said that there were enough Soviet ships in or en route to Cuba to evacuate "several thousand" troops by next weekend. He added that getting them out was "not a logistic problem of shipping...." "We will make an assessment, somewhat later, about exactly what this withdrawal amounts to, but I would not today want to get into the box score of running figures on how the situation stands at this moment."
- 8 Mar Soviet Ambassador to the U.S. Anatoly Dobrynin, said that "We will do what we promised we would do," when he was asked when Soviet troops would be withdrawn from Cuba.

- ✓ 11 Mar 1963 Seventy-eight members of Brigade 2506, which invaded Cuba in April 1961 and was held prisoner for 13 months, joined the U.S. Army. The Department of Defense said that 400 brigade members have signed up for training under a special program worked out by the Department and the Cuban Revolutionary Committee.
- ✓ 12 Mar Secretary Rusk stated that the projected partial withdrawal of Soviet troops stationed in Cuba would not satisfy the U.S. Government. The "continued outflow" of Soviet military personnel "must be and is an object of United States policy," he said, adding that the objective is to get "all Soviet military units" out of the Caribbean. So long as Soviet troops remained in Cuba, the situation was "highly dangerous," especially as it might lead to interference with U.S. aerial surveillance of the island. Such surveillance would be maintained, Rusk said, and the U.S. would also protect the international waters and air space of the Caribbean area by "force if necessary."
- ✓ 13 Mar The Soviet newspaper Pravda reported that four shiploads of Soviet troops had left Cuba and that another vessel had arrived to bring a further shipment back to Russia.
- ✓ 15 Mar The economic isolation of Cuba was further increased by a royal decree of the Greek Government prohibiting Greek-registered ships from carrying cargo to Cuba.

✓ 15 Mar 1963

Sizable contingents of Russian troops were reported to be leaving Cuba in the first large withdrawal since the State Department announced on 20 February that the Soviet Union had agreed to withdraw several thousand troops from Cuba by mid-March.

✓ 15 Mar

Cuba charged that two U.S. warships violated Cuban territorial waters on a "spy mission," according to the United Press International.

16 Mar

The Miami Herald reported that approximately 2500 Russian combat troops have been withdrawn from Cuba in the last 30 days. It also reported that some 500 Russian technicians had arrived in the same period of time. The technicians were agriculture specialists, apparently sent to help set up a collective system designed to create new "state plantations" and combat the island's agricultural problems.